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D/NPIC-68-61
25 July 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Automatic Data Processing Committee

SUBJECT: NPIC Requirement for IBM 1401 System

1. NPIC's data processing capability using punched cards and conventional EAM equipment is rapidly reaching the saturation point. The inputs to our system are growing at an alarming rate and the Data Management Division responsibilities for supporting the analysis efforts of the Center is becoming increasingly more difficult to accomplish within the established deadlines. The information required by the Center's intelligence components to meet the demands placed upon them by the Community must be as current as is technically feasible. Up until now we have been able to cope with the demands through the use of conventional sorters, collators and 407 Accounting Machines using them on an overtime basis as required. It is now obvious that this equipment cannot continue to do the job.

2. In an attempt to solve our problem we have investigated two possible solutions; (a) the addition of more EAM equipment and (b) the acquisition of Electronic Data Processing Equipment utilizing punched cards and magnetic tape. The first solution has been ruled out because (a) the additional equipment will not provide the speed we need, (b) space limitations and (c) manpower requirements. After a thorough investigation including discussions with knowledgeable Agency officials and representatives from Burroughs and IBM, we have concluded that the IBM 1401 System provides the most workable solution to our problem.

3. The 1401 System we are recommending consists of (a) the 1401 Processing Unit, (b) the 1403 Printer, (c) the 1402 Card Read Punch, and (d) three (3) 729 IV Magnetic Tape Units. In reviewing the problem, some of the primary advantages of the IBM 1401 System of importance to us include:

(a). Greater speed - the system is capable of processing approximately four times more data with the same manpower in the same time period.

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(b). More economical storage capability - one reel of tape will contain the equivalent of ten (10) trays of IBM cards.

(c). Good training facilities - IBM will train our people to program and operate the System while we are awaiting delivery.

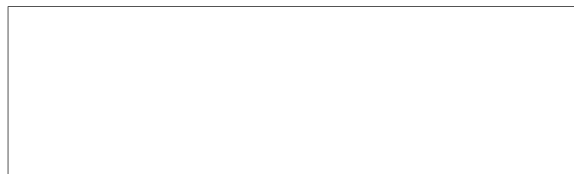


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(e). Good company support - IBM will assist us in the preparation of our programs which will facilitate the change-over with little or no loss of production.

4. It is requested that the Automatic Data Processing Committee review our proposal in order that we may proceed with acquisition of this System. Upon approval by the Committee, we intend to request a rental contract with IBM for the equipment listed above.

5. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you require additional information, we will be glad to provide it upon request.



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Operations Officer,
National Photographic Interpretation Center

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